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Davis Announces State Support for Jasper Engines and Transmissions 100 New Jobs Created, Company enrolls in Indiana@Work

JASPER—In Jasper today, Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis announced state support for Jasper Engines and Transmissions, one of Indiana's strongest automotive parts manufacturers.

Davis joined Mayor Bill Schmitt and other local officials and company representatives to announce how a joint effort by Indiana's departments of Commerce and Workforce Development will support the company's plans to invest \$3 million in its Dubois and Crawford County facilities. The more than \$336,000 in support will help the company train 100 new employees and more than 1,300 existing workers.

"For more than 62 years, Jasper Engines and Transmissions has invested in Southwestern Indiana, and now we are helping the company retrain its workforce and create 100 new jobs," said Davis, who serves as director of the Department of Commerce. "As we continue to aggressively pursue business expansion and investment, it is important that we solidify our strengths by working with companies already based in Indiana."

Founded in 1942, Jasper Engines and Transmissions employs more than 1,600 people and is one of the nation's largest mass re-manufacturers of drive train components, producing 70,000 gas engines, 55,000 transmissions and 5,500 diesel engines each year. The company recently became officially licensed to re-manufacture engines and transmissions for NASCAR.

"Jasper Engines and Transmissions has enjoyed consistent growth over the last 62 years and this growth can be contributed to our associates who make up a strong work force," said Mike Schwenk, vice president of Jasper Engines and Transmissions. "We look forward to using the Indiana@Work WorkKeys program to identify additional associates with the proper skill levels to support our continued growth."

Jasper Engines and Transmissions will invest \$1.5 million in its Jasper, Ind., headquarter facility, and another \$1.5 million in its Leavenworth, Ind., manufacturing facility. To support the project, the Department of Commerce awarded \$294,000 in training grant assistance.

The assistance included a \$200,000 Skills Enhancement Fund grant to the company's headquarter facility for the training of 50 new and 963 existing employees, as well as a \$94,000 Skills Enhancement Fund grant to the company's Crawford County manufacturing facility. The manufacturing facility will use the grant money to train 50 new and 350 current employees.

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In addition, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development has provided \$42,060 through the State's Indiana@Work program to profile five specific positions and assess the skills of up to 1,600 existing and potential employees.

"Indiana@Work provides another unique tool, along with our updated tax structure and Energize Indiana, to grow our economy as we come out of this national recession," Davis added. "It provides us with a completely objective index of our workforce's skills that will help us make our case to businesses as they seek to expand or locate their facilities here. As more businesses get involved, this program has the potential to reshape Indiana's economic and workforce development landscape."

Since 1992, the Department of Commerce has awarded the company more than \$1.2 million in incentives, generating more than \$32 million in investment.

"Jasper Engines and Transmission has been rebuilding for over 60 years," Jasper Mayor Bill Schmitt said. "The company was recycling before people knew what recycling was. Their advanced thinking back in the 40's led to the largest automotive re-manufacturing company that provides an affordable product to working class America while providing jobs across southern Indiana. They have been an asset for our community and we are glad they are headquartered in Jasper."

The Commerce Department awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the State's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 11,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 165 job profiles since its inception in January.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service.

Companies interested in learning more about programs offered by the Department of Commerce should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.280.0584, or access its Web site at www.indianacommerce.com. For more information on Department of Workforce Development programs, call 888.465.4616 or visit www.workforce.IN.gov.

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